

Grey Louisos
Portland
LD 1704

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Portland, Maine
May 8, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the
Judiciary Committee,

My name is Grey Louisos, I'm a resident of Portland, and I am a disabled advocate and nonbinary mom. I'm writing on behalf of my family; my loving and supporting trans husband and our beautiful teenage trans son. I am writing on behalf of us and our whole community in opposition of the overtly cruel and harmful bills before the committee today.

These bills are a heartbreaking attack on my family and the safety of our communities at large. For over a decade, my family has struggled to find safety and acceptance in all realms of our lives. We've experienced harassment, intimidation and painful ignorance in our son's public school environments, at work, in healthcare, in public spaces, and among friends and family. And we're among the lucky ones. Generations of trans people have fought and continue to be killed for just existing as they are. During the past few years there was finally a feeling that public understanding was beginning to shift towards at least some more acceptance and inclusion for trans people. It is absolutely heartbreaking to watch the sweeping efforts to rip that away.

Passing these bills will only create more isolation, violence, and hostility. One of the reasons I'm writing this instead of speaking, is because I can't speak through crying when talking about how the states that have already passed anti-trans laws saw suicide attempts by trans and nonbinary youth ages 13-17 increase by 72%. As a parent of a 15 year old who has struggled with his mental health and seen most (not some) of his trans friends struggle dangerously too, I can't emphasize enough how enormous the impact of these bills on our trans youth will be. On top of not being able to access youthful joy and belonging through sports and school activities, and being safe to access their basic needs in school without distress and harassment, their very existence and sense of self would be further invalidated and denigrated by the structures of their society. Our kids deserve to look into the future and see themselves. These bills will make that infinitely more difficult and I promise that the harm will be incalculable.

Additionally, I would fear even more for my partner and son being able to access competent healthcare if protections for gender-affirming healthcare providers were repealed. There is only one primary care physician in the Portland area who is proficient in the healthcare needs of trans patients. There already aren't enough providers with access to information that could save one of my family member's lives in primary or emergency care. Repealing protections would deter more clinicians from being able to provide adequate care to our community. I already worry about losing one of us to this dangerous and dehumanizing care gap. Please do not further endanger my family and some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on these bills.